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MAGNETO™ TRIUMPHANT



30TH
ANNIVERSARY



THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR
1961-1991

JIM LEE
WILLIAMSON

STAN LEE PRESENTS

FIRESTORM

By CHRIS CLAREMONT & JIM LEE

I SAY
AGAIN,
X-MEN--

--THESE
ACOLYTES
HAVE PLEDGED
THEMSELVES
TO MY SERVICE
AND MY
CAUSE.

I SHALL
NOT
ABANDON
THEM.

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HAMMER BAY, CAPITAL CITY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN NATION OF GENOSHA, AMIDST THE RUINS OF THE CENTRAL MEDICAL FACILITY...

THEY ACTED IN AN EXCESS OF ZEAL. IF SO...

...I-- AND I ALONE-- SHALL DETERMINE THEIR APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT.

PARDON MY ASKING, M'SIEU--

--BUT WHO DIED AN' MADE YOU GOD?

MAGNETO-- DON'T DO THIS!

YOU'RE PLAYIN' RIGHT INTO THE HANDS OF EVERY DEMAGOGUE WHO B'LIEVES MUTANTS OUGHT'A BE WIPED OFF THE FACE O' THE EARTH!

HE DOESN'T CARE, ROGUE.

ABOUT YOUR WORDS ANY MORE THAN THE FACT HIS PEOPLE JUST LAID WASTE TO THE HEART OF A CITY-- TO A HOSPITAL NO LESS!

WHY SHOULD THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM-- SELF-APPOINTED LEADER OF MUTANTKIND-- CARE A WHIT ABOUT THE LIVES, AND DEATHS, OF ORDINARY HUMAN BEINGS?



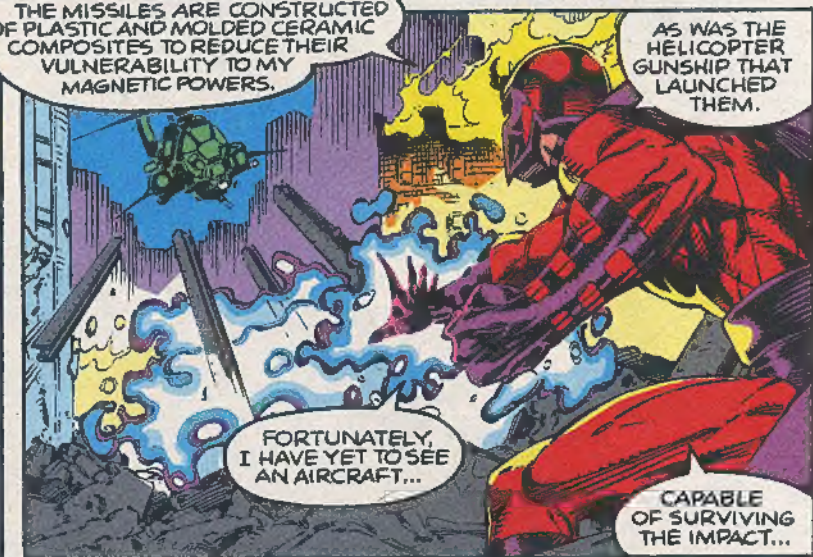
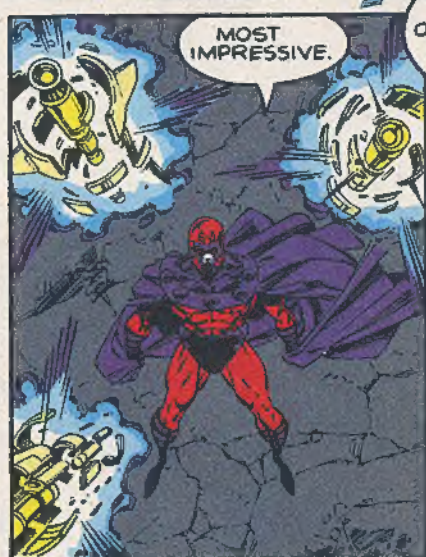
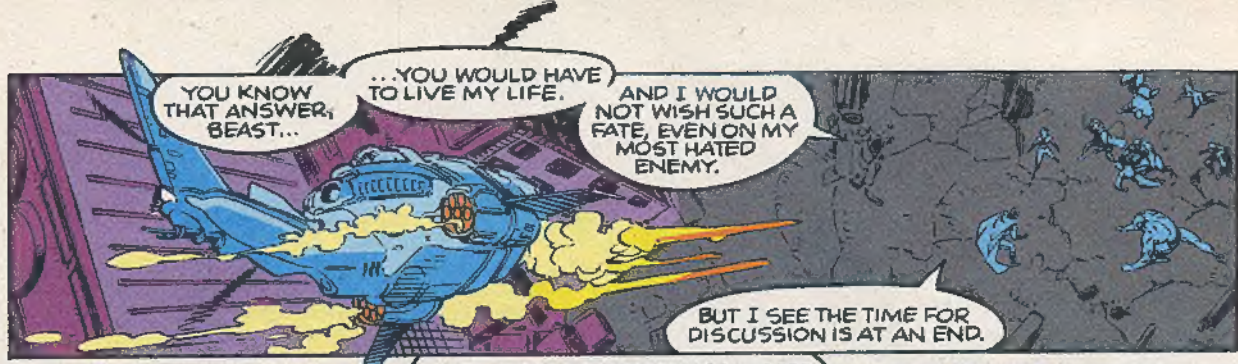
AS ALWAYS, CYCLOPS, YOU SEE ME AS YOU WISH. AND WHO KNOWS, PERHAPS THAT IS AS I TRULY AM--ABOUT THAT, YOU ARE QUITE CORRECT, I DO NO LONGER CARE.


THE GENOSHANS HAVE ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE, MAGNETO; THEY'VE RESOLVED TO MAKE AMENDS.

THEY'VE CHANGED-- FOR THE BETTER!

ABOUT THE DEVASTATION, SOME MIGHT CALL IT FIT PUNISHMENT FOR A STATE WHOSE PROSPERITY WAS BUILT ON THE BACKS OF MUTANT SLAVES!

WHY IS IT YOU'RE GOING THE OTHER DIRECTION?






NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
AH CARE
'BOUT YOU,
MAGNETO...

...AH CAN'T
LET YOU GET
AWAY WITH
THIS!


AND HOW,
PRAY TELL,
SWEET
ROGUE...

...WILL
YOU
STOP
ME?




THAT'S
THE SPIRIT,
LORD!

PUT THESE ARROGANT
UPSTARTS IN THEIR
PROPER PLACE, ONCE
AND FOR ALL!



INDEED, LET WE WHO
REVERE AND FOLLOW
YOU, EVEN UNTO
DEATH...




... PROFIT
FROM YOUR
EXAMPLE!

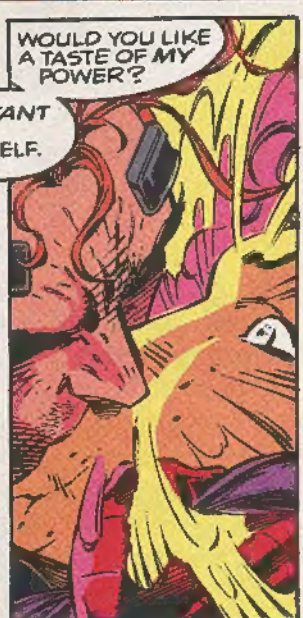
KEEP YOUR PSYCHIC KNIFE
TO YOURSELF, PSYLOCKE!

GOOD AS YOU ARE
AT THE MARTIAL ARTS,
YOU'RE NOT THE BEST.

A LACK
THAT'S ABOUT
TO COST YOU
DEARLY!



I AM
FABIAN
CORTEZ!



WOULD YOU LIKE
A TASTE OF MY
POWER?

A MUTANT
LIKE
YOURSELF.



DEVASTATION IS TOO TAME A WORD TO DESCRIBE THE SCENE IN HAMMER BAY...

...AS THIS NATION, WHICH HAS ONLY BEGUN TO RECOVER FROM ITS RECENT ALL-OUT CONFRONTATION WITH THE MUTANT BAND KNOWN AS THE X-MEN...

HE'S REFERRING TO THE INCIDENT WE'VE CODE-NAMED, "X-TINCTION AGENDA."

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOT ITS HANDS FULL, TOO.

GREEN AN EASANT

LIVE CHARLES GEOFFREY GENOSHA

FROM THE USSR GBN

AWFULLY DROLL WAY, COLONEL FURY...

...OF REFERRING TO THE FIRST HOSTILE DETONATION IN EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR...

...OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON.

IN SOVIET AIRSPACE, COLONEL...

...WITH THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE BEARING THE AWFUL CONSEQUENCES!

ELECTRONICS SYSTEMS DISRUPTED ACROSS THE CONTINENT, THANKS TO THE ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE.

CONTAMINATION TO THE BIOSPHERE FROM THE RELEASE OF MORE CONCENTRATED RADIO-ACTIVITY AND FALLOUT THAN WAS GENERATED BY THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER!

I READ THE BRIEFING PAPERS, COMRADE ALEKSEYEV.

AN' NO, DR. COOPER, I WASN'T MAKIN' FUN, JUST AN OBSERVATION.

FACT IS, WE GOT OURSELVES A CRISIS SITUATION HERE. WE GOTTA DEFUSE IT...

...OR LET IT ESCALATE INTO SOMETHING WE'LL ALL REGRET?

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC VEHEMENTLY OPPOSES ANY VIOLENT RESOLUTION OF THIS SITUATION. RATHER, WE WOULD PREFER TO WELCOME MAGNETO INTO THE FAMILY OF NATIONS.

THIS IS CHIEF MAGISTRATE ANDERSON, IN GENOSHA!

HAVE YOU GOT EYES? CAN'T YOU SEE?!

WHILE YOU IDIOTS ARE BLITHERING AT THE UNITED NATIONS, MAGNETO IS DESTROYING MY COUNTRY!

AND BECAUSE OF THE STRICTURES LAID DOWN BY YOU AFTER THE X-TINCTION MESS, MY TROOPS ARE POWERLESS TO STOP HIM! WE'RE BEING MASSACRED!

THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS WILL NOT ALLOW A REPEAT OF WHAT HAS JUST HAPPENED TO US AND TO GENOSHA.

MY GOVERNMENT DEMANDS FULL AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAGNETO PROTOCOLS.

WHAT ABOUT THE RISK?

IF NECESSARY, COLONEL FURY, WE WILL ACT ALONE. BUT ACT, WE SHALL!



SO MANY THOUGHTS!

MUTIE!

HELP ME!

HURT!

GET THAT RING OFF THE BODY!

SMASHING THROUGH MY HEAD--

THEY'RE KILLING US!

CURSED GENE-JOKES!

HATE 'EM!

KILL 'EM ALL!

--I CAN'T KEEP THEM OUT!

HATE 'EM!

MUTIES!

THERE'S ONE!



HATE 'EM!

TEAR HER DOWN!

HATE 'EM!

MUTIE!

BEAT THE WITCH BLOODY!

ONLY GOOD MUTIE'S A DEAD MUTIE!



THAT, GENTLEMEN--ALTHOUGH IN YOUR COLLECTIVE CASE, I USE THE TERM, ADVISEDLY--

-- WILL BE QUITE ENOUGH OF THAT!

LOATH AS I USUALLY AM TO USE MY SOMEWHAT OUTRE VISAGE TO DELIBERATELY PROVOKE A FEAR RESPONSE IN THOSE I ENCOUNTER...

... IN YOUR CASE, I'LL GLADLY MAKE AN EXCEPTION!



RUN, ALL OF YOU, RUN!

IT'S A BEAST!

THE "BEAST," THANK YOU!

AND LAY HAND ON MY TEAMMATE AGAIN...

...YOU'LL FIND OUT WHY!

WHAT A NASTY LITTLE TEMPER YOU HAVE THERE, FUR-BALL.

YOU MAY WELL HAVE SAVED YOUR FRIEND-- THOUGH I DOUBT IN HER PRESENT STATE, SHE'D CONSIDER THAT A BLESSING--

-- BUT I'LL WAGER AT THE COST OF THE X-MEN'S GOOD AND HEROIC REPUTATION. FAIR TRADE-OFF, D'YOU THINK?

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER, ACOYTE?!

WHY, WHAT COMES NATURALLY, X-MAN!

I ENHANCED PSYLOCKE'S TELEPATHIC POWER TO ITS ULTIMATE EXTENT. SHE'S PROBABLY IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH EVERY SENTIENT MIND ON THE ISLAND.

TENS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE-- D'YOU THINK HER POOR WEE SKULL CAN HANDLE THE LOAD?

PROB'LY A WHOLE LOT BETTER, SLUG...

...THAN YOU CAN, MY QUARTER-STAFF!

STOP!

WITH A WHOLE WORLD SCREAMING FOR MUTANT BLOOD...

...WE CANNOT AFFORD TO WASTE OUR ENERGIES FIGHTING AMONGST OURSELVES.

THEN, BEAST, YOUR PLACE SHOULD BE BY MY SIDE.

FOR WHAT GREATER INJUSTICE CAN THERE BE THAN A PEOPLE WHO WOULD HATE AND EVEN DESTROY THEIR CHILDREN...

...SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY EXIST?

AND YOU'RE ANY DIFFERENT?

YOUR LEADERS ARE BEATEN, YOUR CAUSE LOST. I CALL ON YOU TO YIELD.

STRANGE, WE ALWAYS FIGURED WE WERE STANDING AGAINST INJUSTICE.

HALF-A-WORLD AWAY, IN THE SUBURBAN NEW YORK CITY MANSION THAT HOUSES PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS AND SERVES AS THE X-MEN'S SECRET HEADQUARTERS...

FIRST STRING DEFENSES FULLY ENABLED AND ON-LINE.

ALERT CALL'S OUT TO STORM AND HER TEAM.

D'YE THINK WE'LL BE A TARGET, FORGE?

MAGNETO'S ALL BUT NAILED CYCLOPS'S TEAM, STANDS TO REASON HE'LL COME FOR US NEXT.

FORGE, WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME OF THE MAGNETO PROTOCOLS REFERRED TO IN THE UNITED NATIONS SESSION?

WHAT D'YE THINK THEY'LL DO, CHARLES?

I HAVE NO IDEA, BANSHEE, AND THAT FRIGHTENS ME.

YE'RE TALKIN' LIKE WE'RE IN A WAR.

NO, MY FRIEND. THEY ARE.

BY THE WAY, WHERE IS MOIRA?

RAN OFF, RIGHT WHEN FORGE SOUNDED THE ALARM.

STAY HERE AND ASSIST FORGE. I SHALL FIND HER.

NOT MUCH. THEY'RE PRESIDENTIAL-ACCESS ONLY FILES, ABOUT AS TOP SECRET AS THINGS GET.

I NEED THAT INFORMATION.

PROFESSOR, IT ISN'T WISE TO LEAVE THE SECURE FACILITY.

I'LL COME WITH---!

NO!

I UNDERSTAND THE RISK, FORGE, AND ACCEPT IT.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS FOR THE WOMAN YOU LOVE, BANSHEE, MINE ARE NO LESS. THAT IS WHY I ASK YOU TO RESPECT MY DECISION.

AND ACCEPT IT.



BULL, MAGNETO. SWEET WORDS MADE LIES BY YOUR OWN ACTIONS.

YOU GOT YOUR HAND AT CYKE'S AND WOLVIE'S THROATS. WHA'CHA GONNA DO IF WE TURN YOU DOWN?

YOU HAVE SEEN ME AT MY BEST, ROGUE. WHY NOW ARE YOU SO EAGER TO BELIEVE THE WORST?

OFFER ME A FRACTION OF THE TRUST YOU GIVE CHARLES XAVIER WITHOUT QUESTION, AND I WILL PROVE TO YOU--

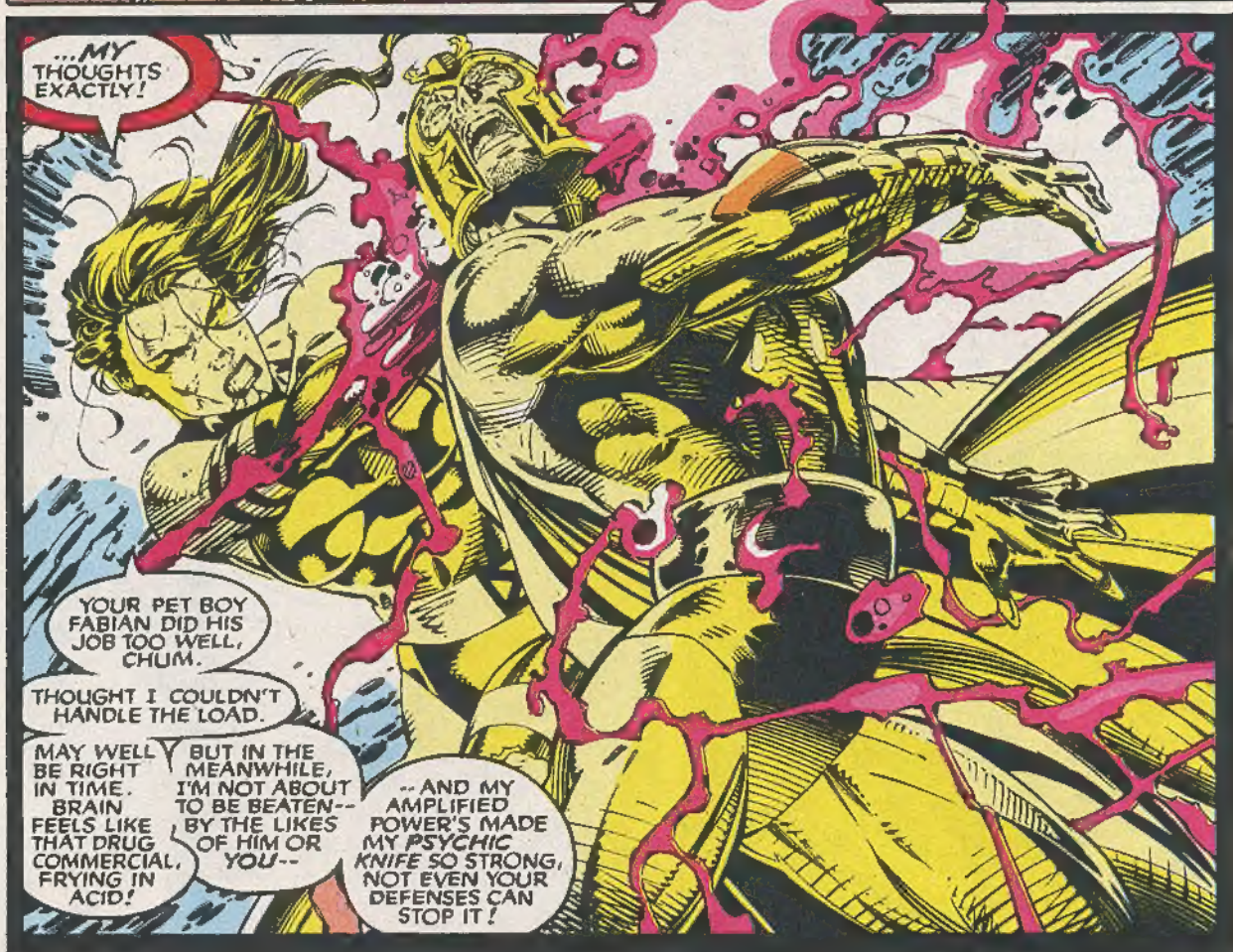


-- BEYOND ALL SHADOW OF A DOUBT-- THAT MINE IS THE TRUE CAUSE.

THE PATH TO SALVATION FOR MUTANTKIND!



FUNNY...



...MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY!

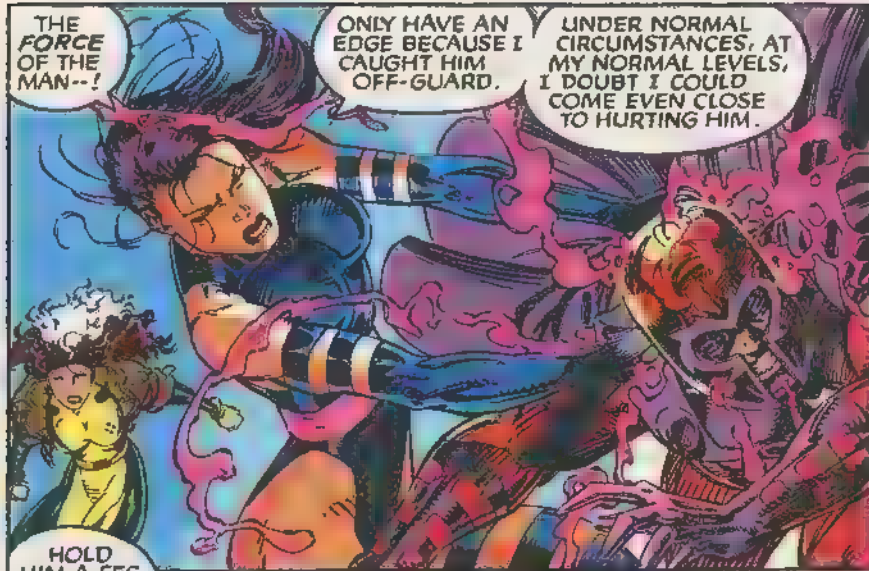
YOUR PET BOY FABIAN DID HIS JOB TOO WELL, CHUM.

THOUGHT I COULDN'T HANDLE THE LOAD.

MAY WELL BE RIGHT IN TIME. BRAIN FEELS LIKE THAT DRUG COMMERCIAL, FRYING IN ACID!

BUT IN THE MEANWHILE, I'M NOT ABOUT TO BE BEATEN-- BY THE LIKES OF HIM OR YOU--

-- AND MY AMPLIFIED POWER'S MADE MY PSYCHIC KNIFE SO STRONG, NOT EVEN YOUR DEFENSES CAN STOP IT!



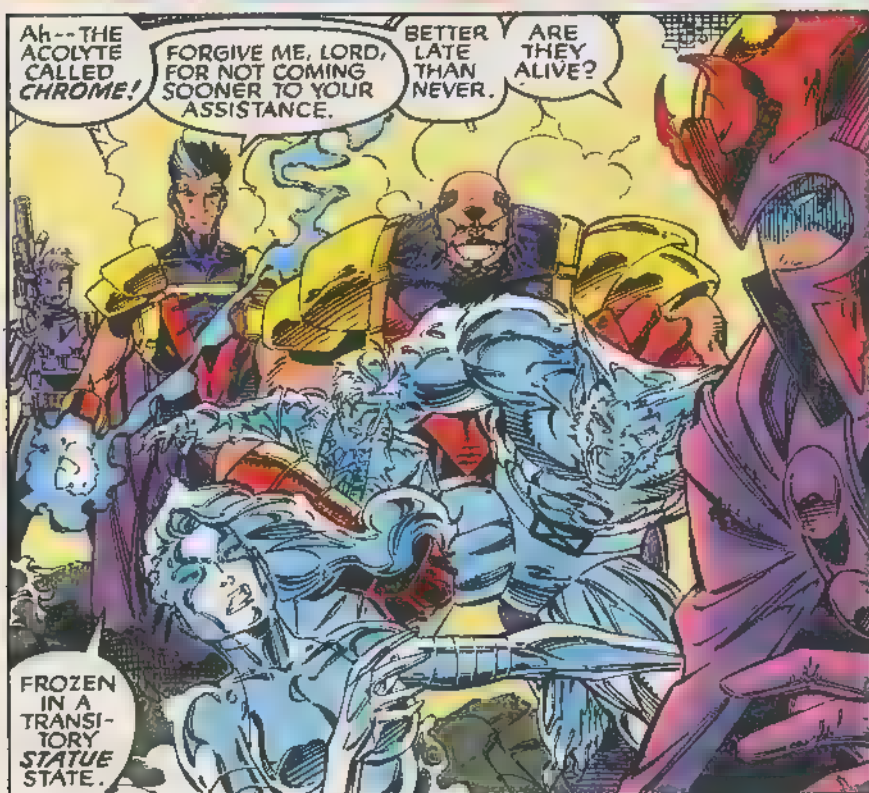
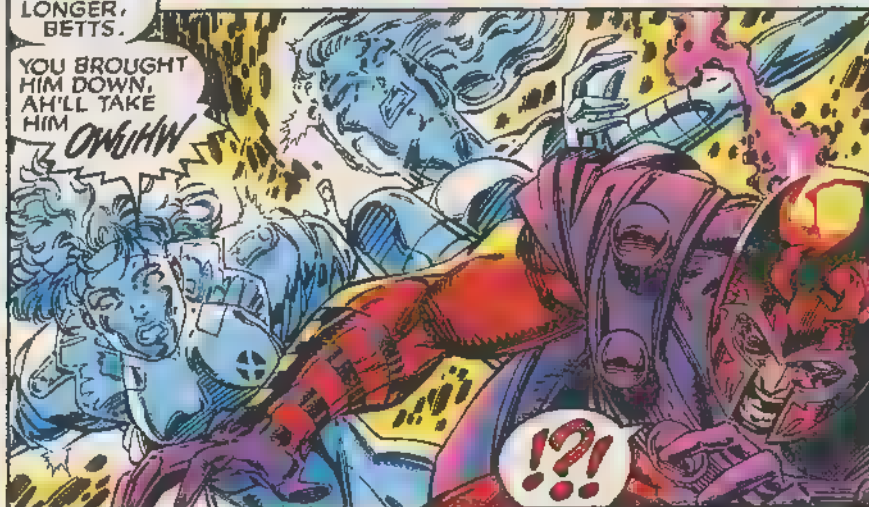
THE
FORCE
OF THE
MAN--!

ONLY HAVE AN
EDGE BECAUSE I
CAUGHT HIM
OFF-GUARD.

UNDER NORMAL
CIRCUMSTANCES, AT
MY NORMAL LEVELS,
I DOUBT I COULD
COME EVEN CLOSE
TO HURTING HIM.

HOLD
HIM A SEC
LONGER,
BETTS.

YOU
BROUGHT
HIM DOWN,
AH'LL TAKE
HIM



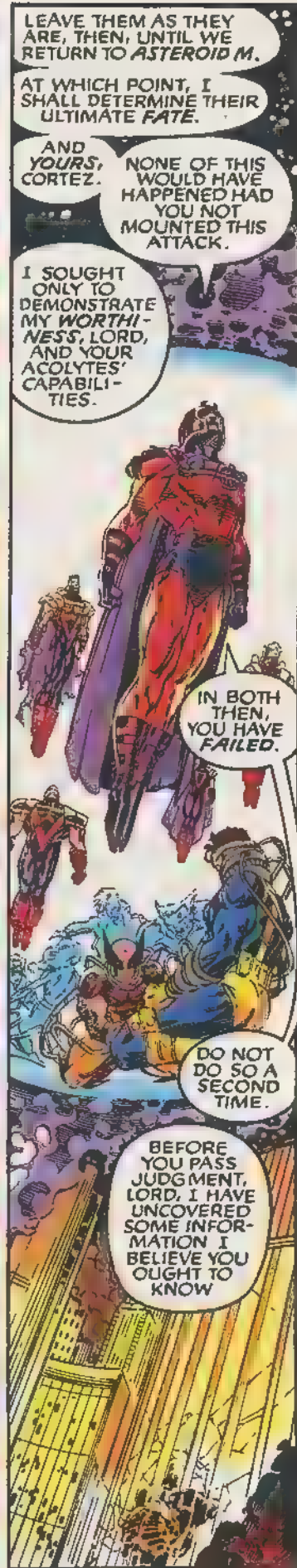
Ah--THE
ACOLYTE
CALLED
CHROME!

FORGIVE ME, LORD,
FOR NOT COMING
SOONER TO YOUR
ASSISTANCE.

BETTER
LATE
THAN NEVER.

ARE
THEY
ALIVE?

FROZEN
IN A
TRANSI-
TORY
STATUE
STATE.



LEAVE THEM AS THEY
ARE, THEN, UNTIL WE
RETURN TO ASTEROID M.

AT WHICH POINT, I
SHALL DETERMINE THEIR
ULTIMATE FATE.

AND
YOURS,
CORTEZ.

NONE OF THIS
WOULD HAVE
HAPPENED HAD
YOU NOT
MOUNTED THIS
ATTACK.

I SOUGHT
ONLY TO
DEMONSTRATE
MY WORTHI-
NESS, LORD,
AND YOUR
ACOLYTES'
CAPABILI-
TIES.

IN BOTH
THEN,
YOU HAVE
FAILED.

DO NOT
DO SO A
SECOND
TIME.

BEFORE
YOU PASS
JUDGMENT,
LORD, I HAVE
UNCOVERED
SOME INFOR-
MATION I
BELIEVE YOU
OUGHT TO
KNOW

AND PRESENTLY, AFTER THEIR UNEVENTFUL RETURN TO ASTEROID M, MAINTAINED BY MAGNETO'S POWER IN LOW EARTH ORBIT 250 KILOMETERS ABOVE THE PLANETARY SURFACE, BEHIND A DEFENSIVE SCREEN OF NUCLEAR MISSILES APPROPRIATED FROM A SUNKEN SOVIET SUBMARINE...

I NOTICED THE ANOMALY WHEN I HEALED YOU OF YOUR WOUNDS, LORD.

A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE GENETIC CODES IN THE MASTER FILES...

...AND WHAT I SENSED IN YOUR OWN BODY.

AND YOU SAW FIT TO WITHHOLD THIS... REVELATION FROM ME?

NO, LORD, NEVER!

YOU WERE ASLEEP WHEN I LED MY STRIKE GROUP TO GENOSHA. I MEANT TO INFORM YOU UPON OUR RETURN.

IN TRUTH, I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF IT.

IT IS A PIECE OF GENETIC ENGINEERING, AN ARTIFICIAL ALTERATION IN MY DNA CODES.

AND I KNOW OF ONLY ONE WAY IT COULD HAVE OCCURRED.

BAIKONUR COSMODOME, SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA...

...DRI . SVA ...ODIN -- IGNITION!

< WE HAVE LIFTOFF. VEHICLE CLEARING THE LAUNCH TOWER, ALL SYSTEMS NOMINAL >

*TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN--BH.

< A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT, eh, COMRADE DIRECTOR-GENERAL? >

< NOT SO LONG AGO, DMITRI, LAUNCHING THAT PLASMA CANNON WOULD HAVE PROVOKED AN IMMEDIATE THERMONUCLEAR RESPONSE FROM THE AMERICANS. >

< NOW, WASHINGTON CHEERS US ON. IT IS ONLY MAGNETO WE HAVE TO FEAR >

I WONDER, OLD FRIEND, HAVE OUR ACTIONS SAVED OUR POOR WORLD... >

< ...OR SEALED ITS DOOM. >

THE BOATHOUSE, ON THE SHORE OF
BREAKSTONE LAKE, A BRISK DOWNHILL
WALK FROM XAVIER'S MANSION...

IF IT'S ANSWERS
Y' WANT FROM
ME, CHARLEY...

...ALL Y' NEED DO IS REACH INTO MY
MIND.

IN ALL THE YEARS WE'VE
KNOWN EACH OTHER, MOIRA,
I'VE NEVER DONE THAT.

I GAVE YOU MY
WORD I NEVER
WOULD.

BUT Y'
WANT TO. I
DON'T HAVE
T' BE A
TELEPATH
LIKE YOU T'
KNOW THAT.

ONCE, I HELD BACK
THE TRUTH ABOUT MY
MUTANT SON,
PROTEUS, UNTIL HE
WENT MAD AN' THE
TIME CAME F'R THE
X-MEN T' FIGHT HIM
T' HIS DEATH.

NOW
YE'RE
AFRAID
I'VE
DONE IT
AGAIN.

CHARLES
XAVIER IS
NOT THE ONLY
INTERESTED
PARTY
HERE, DR.
MacTAGGERT.

AND IF YOU ARE
HIDING SOMETHING--
ESPECIALLY SOMETHING
THAT I STRONGLY
SUSPECT PERTAINS
TO ME--

--I
REALLY
MUST INSIST
YOU REVEAL
WHAT
IT IS.

MAGNETO!?!

DON'T
BOTHER
ALERTING YOUR
MANSION'S
DEFENDERS,
CHARLES.

WE ARE
QUITE
BEYOND
THEIR
REACH.

I TOLD THE
MAN, I
WARNED
HIM!

NO USE BELLY-
ACHIN'. WE UNDER-
ESTIMATED MAGNETO
AN' HE BURNED
US.

QUESTION
NOW IS,
WHAT DO
WE DO
NEXT?

I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY, CHARLES, OF **INHIBITING** ALL THE INTERNAL SYSTEMS OF YOUR QUITE FORMIDABLE CHAIR...

...TO REMOVE EVEN THE TEMPTATION OF ANY FOOLISH GESTURES.

I WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND AGAINST THE USE OF YOUR TELEPATHIC POWERS AGAINST ME, SINCE I ALONE MAINTAIN THE LIFE SUPPORT ENVELOPE ABOUT THIS BOATHOUSE.

AND IT IS RATHER A LONG WAY TO FALL.

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, MAGNETO? WHY HAVE YOU ABDUCTED US?

I HAVE QUESTIONS THAT REQUIRE ANSWERS FROM YOU BOTH.

AND I DID NOT WISH TO BE DISTURBED IN THE PROCESS.

I HAVE FOUND SOME... INTRIGUING ANOMALIES IN MY DNA MATRIX. I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU MIGHT TELL ME ABOUT IT

I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST NOTION **WHAT** YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT

I HOPE THAT'S TRUE. BECAUSE WE WERE **FRIENDS** ONCE.

AND WHEN ONE FRIEND BETRAYS THE OTHER'S TRUST, IT LEAVES A WOUND THAT NEVER TRULY HEALS.

CAST YOUR MINDS BACK, BOTH OF YOU, TO MY EARLIEST INCARNATION, AND THAT REGRETTABLE CONFRONTATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS WITH A MUTANT OF MY OWN CREATION...

...WHICH RESULTED IN MY BEING REDUCED TO A STATE OF INFANCY. *

*FOR THOSE KEEPING SCORE, IT WAS IN DEFENDERS #16-- Bob.

"I WAS THEN ENTRUSTED INTO THE CARE OF MOIRA MACTAGGERT, AND SENT TO LIVE AT HER MUIR ISLE MUTANT RESEARCH CENTER.

"WHO KNOWS, I MIGHT HAVE LIVED A 'NORMAL' LIFE, HAD NOT AN AGENT OF THE ALIEN SHI'AR...

"...RESTORED ME TO MY PRIME."

*UNCANNY X-MEN #104 -- Bob

THE QUESTION IS, WHAT OCCURRED DURING THE MONTHS I WAS IN YOUR CARE, MOIRA?

I... I DINNA KEN WHAT Y' MEAN.

THAT'S A PITY.

REGRETTABLY, I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.

NEITHER, I'LL WAGER, DOES CHARLES, ALTHOUGH HE'S TOO MUCH OF A GENTLEMAN TO PRESS THE POINT.

I HOWEVER HAVE NO SUCH COMPUNCTIONS.

I SUGGEST YOU SEARCH YOUR SOUL-- RATHER QUICKLY-- AND FIND A BETTER, TRUER ANSWER.

YOU PROCEEDED FROM A FALSE ASSUMPTION, CHARLES.

THE QUESTION IS NOT WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT MAN YOU DESCRIBE, BUT WHETHER HE EVER EVEN EXISTED?

CHARLES!

YOU TALK OF FRIENDSHIP AND TRUST, IS THIS HOW YOU RELAY THEM?

WHERE IS THE GOOD, DECENT-- HONORABLE-- MAN TO WHOM I ENTRUSTED MY SCHOOL?!

ONLY DR. MACTAGGERT CAN ANSWER THAT.

AND IF SHE HAS ANY REGARD AT ALL FOR YOUR LIFE, OLD FRIEND...

THAT'S A VACUUM OUT THERE, HE'LL DIE!

THEN SAVE HIM.

PLEASE, DON'T HURT HIM!

IT'S ALMOST TOO LATE

STOP!

I'LL TELL Y' WHAT Y' WANT TO KNOW, JUST BRING HIM BACK INSIDE, PLEASE, I BEG YOU...

... I'LL TELL Y' EVERYTHING!

I NEVER DOUBTED IT FOR AN INSTANT.

SO

WE'RE
READY AND
WAITING, MY
DEAR.

THERE WERE INDICATIONS
OF AN INSTABILITY IN YOUR
CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM,
AS THOUGH YOUR BODY
COULD'NA QUITE HANDLE
THE ENERGIES YOU
WERE PROCESSING
THROUGH IT

AKIN TO A
POWER LINE UNABLE
TO COPE WITH LOADS FAR
BEYOND ITS DESIGN
CAPABILITIES THERE WAS
A POSSIBILITY OF A PRO-
GRESSIVE DEGRADATION
THAT COULD IN TURN
AFFECT THE ELECTRO-
CHEMICAL BALANCE
OF YOUR BRAIN.

WHAT,
WITH
GREAT
POWER
COMES CERTAIN
MADNESS?

EXPLAIN TO ME
THEN HOW THE MAN
CHARLES KNEW AND
RESPECTED IN ISRAEL
COULD TURN INTO
THE MASTER OF THE
BROTHERHOOD OF
EVIL MUTANTS?

I NEED EXPLAIN
NOTHING, WOMAN,
THAT IS YOUR TASK.

I THOUGHT.

...IF I
COULD
MODIFY
THE
GENETIC
MATRIX.

...ELIMINATE
THE
INSTABILITY.

PERHAPS, I THOUGHT,
I MIGHT USE THE SAME
PROCESS TO SAVE
MY SON.



HOW
SEDUCTIVELY
NOBLE.

AN END THAT
SURELY
JUSTIFIED ANY
MEANS, NO
MATTER HOW
FOUL.



YOU WERE A
CHILD AGAIN, AN
INNOCENT...

...WITH
A
SECOND
CHANCE
TO LIVE
YOUR LIFE
OVER
AGAIN.



AND WHO
GAVE YOU
THE RIGHT
TO PLAY GOD
WITH MY
SOUL?!

BY THE ETERNAL, BY TINKERING
WITH THE FOUNDATION OF MY
BEING, YOU TOOK FROM ME THE
DIMENSIONS OF MORAL CHOICE!

EVERY DECISION
I'VE MADE SINCE MY
REBIRTH IS NOW
SUSPECT THANKS
TO YOU--

--EVERY
FIBER OF MY
BEING THROWN
INTO CHAOS.

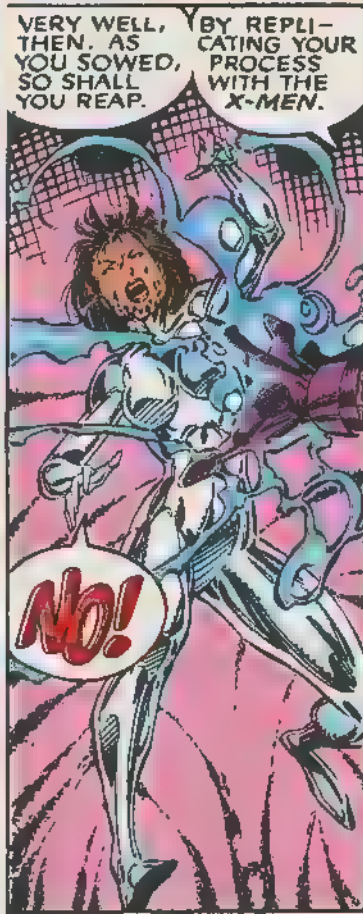


HOW ELSE DID YOU TINKER, DOCTOR,
DID IT AMUSE YOU TO SEE HOW EASILY
I MIGHT BE MANIPULATED?

IT WASN'T LIKE THAT!

OF COURSE NOT.
YOU WORKED FOR
THE BETTERMENT OF
THE WORLD AND
THE RACE.

I HEARD
THOSE SAME
RATIONALES AS
A BOY, IN THE
AUSCHWITZ
DEATH CAMP,
FROM DR. JOSEF
MENGELE
HIMSELF!



VERY WELL,
THEN. AS
YOU SOWED,
SO SHALL
YOU REAP.

BY REPLI-
CATING YOUR
PROCESS
WITH THE
X-MEN.

No!



MY DEAR, YOU
SPEAK AS THOUGH
YOU HAVE A CHOICE.

CONSIDER THE
ALTERNATIVE--
SHALL I RETURN
YOU HOME ATOP
A CHARIOT MADE
FROM THEIR
BROKEN
BODIES?

TO LIVE
FOREVER
KNOWING THAT
YOU COULD
HAVE SAVED
THEM, BUT
FOR PRIDE?

YOU WILL ENSURE THAT THEY COME TO SEE MINE AS THE ONE, TRUE PATH.

AND THAT THEY FOLLOW ME WILLINGLY.

INDEED, WITH ALL THEIR HEARTS.

YOU CANNOT RESIST ME, MOIRA. OR THE TIDE OF HISTORY I REPRESENT.

FOR YOU ARE ONLY HUMAN.

I GROW IMPATIENT FOR YOUR ANSWER.

AND DO NOT BOTHER LYING. THAT METAL SKINSHEATH NOT ONLY GIVES ME ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER YOUR BODY, BUT A TOTAL AWARENESS OF IT AS WELL.

I WILL SENSE THE SLIGHTEST ATTEMPT AT DECEPTION. AND RESPOND ACCORDINGLY.

DO WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, MOIRA? WILL YOU BEHAVE YOURSELF, AND DO AS I COMMAND?

Yes.

PROLOGUE:

THE SAKHALIN ISLANDS, BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND JAPAN...

YOUR MISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL, GENERAL AKHRONAYEV?

AS THE AMERIKANSKI SAY, COMRADE, "PIECE OF CAKE."

THAT ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE MAGNETO IGNITED HAS CRASHED EVERY MAIN COMPUTER NETWORK IN THE RODINA. EVEN THE SHIELDED MILITARY NODES HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY DEGRADED.

THEY'LL NEVER KNOW OMEGA'S MISSING.

ASSUMING ANYONE EVEN REMEMBERS IT EVEN EXISTS.

YOU REMEMBERED, COMRADE GENERAL.

HOW FORTUITOUSLY PROFITABLE FOR BOTH OF US THAT I DID.

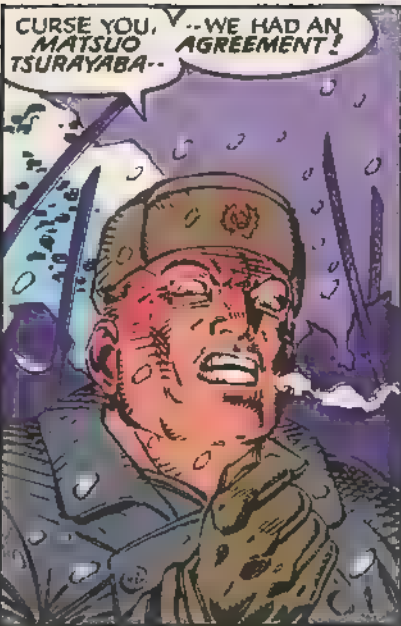
IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU, SELLING OUT YOUR RODINA, YOUR SACRED MOTHERLAND, FOR PERSONAL GAIN?

NOT AT ALL THE ACT OF A GOOD COMMUNIST. OR A PATRIOT.

A FOOL'S SENTIMENTS, THESE DAYS. AND A FOOL'S BELIEFS.

PITY. WHEN A MAN HAS TO DIE...

... IT SHOULD BE FOR SOMETHING MORE THAN THE PROMISE OF MERE WEALTH.



CURSE YOU, MATSUO TSURAYABA--

--WE HAD AN AGREEMENT!



WHICH I HAVE HONORED, TO THE LETTER.

IN RETURN FOR THE DELIVERY OF A CERTAIN ITEM, I HAVE PAID YOU A CERTAIN PRICE. NOTHING WAS EVER SAID ABOUT HOW LONG YOU MIGHT ENJOY IT.



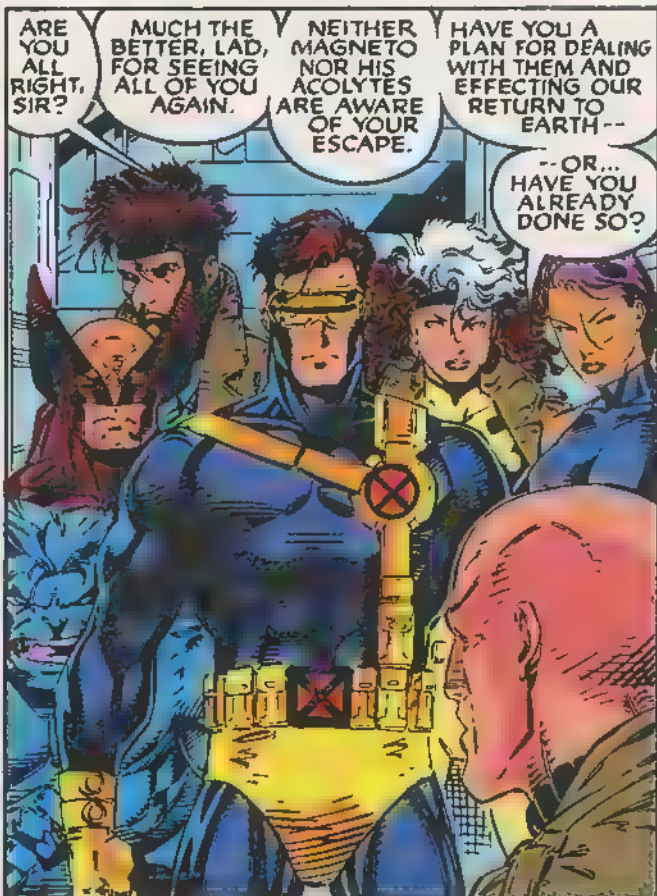
GOOD-BYE, GENERAL. OUR BUSINESS IS NOW CONCLUDED.



LATER, ASTEROID M.

PROFESSOR XAVIER!

CYCLOPS?!



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?

MUCH THE BETTER, LAD, FOR SEEING ALL OF YOU AGAIN.

NEITHER MAGNETO NOR HIS ACOLYTES ARE AWARE OF YOUR ESCAPE.

HAVE YOU A PLAN FOR DEALING WITH THEM AND EFFECTING OUR RETURN TO EARTH--

--OR... HAVE YOU ALREADY DONE SO?



NO, PROFESSOR, NOTHING LIKE THAT AT ALL.

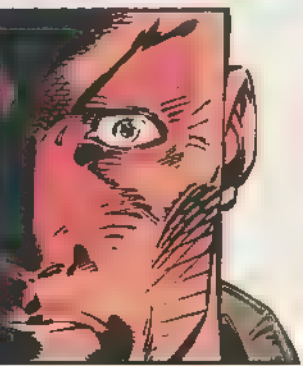
WE'VE COME TO TELL YOU THAT WE'VE JOINED MAGNETO.



I KNOW THIS'LL BE HARD FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND, BUT A LOT OF WHAT HE SAYS MAKES SENSE. MAYBE HIS MEANS ARE A LITTLE EXTREME, BUT I THINK WE CAN TEMPER THEM THE PLAIN FACT, THOUGH, IS THAT WHILE YOUR DREAM OF PEACEFUL INTEGRATION WAS RIGHT FOR ITS DAY...

...TIMES HAVE CHANGED. WE HAVE TO CHANGE TO MATCH IT. SAME AS CABLE AND HIS X-FORCE.

MAGNETO IS THE RIGHT MAN FOR THIS ERA, SIR, AND WE MEAN TO STAND BY HIM TO THE END.



SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA.

WHAT'S THE SAYING, 'IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...'

THING IS, AFTER TEN TRIES AND TEN STRAIGHT MASSACRES, A BODY HAS TO BEGIN TO WONDER.

WE ARE A MATCH FOR CYCLOPS'S TEAM, OR FOR THE ACOLYTES, OR POSSIBLY, IF THE GODDESS IS VERY KIND, EVEN FOR MAGNETO.

BUT ALL OF THEM TOGETHER--!

WELL, THAT IS WHY WE HAVE THE DANGER ROOM.

TO EXAMINE HOW OUR FOES THINK AND ACT, THAT WE MAY BETTER UNCOVER A WEAKNESS WE CAN USE TO DEFEAT THEM.

SCOTT AND HIS TEAM ARE THE KEY. YOU ARE CERTAIN THEY HAVE BEEN TURNED?

I'M AFRAID SO.

BUT HOW IS IT YOU KNOW? THROUGH THE PSYCHIC RAP-PORT YOU ONCE SHARED WITH SCOTT?

ALWAYS ASSUMING THEY HAVE ONE.

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, LADIES-- ANOTHER LOSS?

GEEZ- LOUISE, ORORO, WHAT ARE WE TODAY, THE METS?

I HATE TO MAKE YOUR MORNING EVEN WORSE, BUT THIS IS A CALL I THINK WE'D BETTER TAKE.

IT'S COMING IN OVER MY PERSONAL, PRIVATE CHANNEL.

I'M BREAKIN' A WHOLE HOST O' RULES BY MAKIN' THIS CALL, FORGE, BUT I DON'T MUCH CARE.

THE DECISION'S BEEN MADE AND RATIFIED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO EXECUTE STAGE 3 OF THE MAGNETO PROTOCOLS. IN COMPLIANCE, AMERICAN STRATEGIC FORCES HAVE GONE TO DEFCON 1. SO VE THE RUSSIANS.

IN EFFECT, A STATE OF WAR NOW EXISTS BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS AND MAGNETO. AND THEY MEAN TO DO WHATEVER'S NECESSARY TO BRING HIM DOWN.

THE RUSSIANS HAVE LAUNCHED AN ASSAULT VEHICLE, REPRESENTING THE PINNACLE OF THEIR MILITARY TECHNOLOGY.

IT'S AN ENERGY CANNON, FIRING BEAMS OF ULTRA-INTENSITY NUCLEAR PLASMA. IT'S NEVER BEEN FIELD TESTED. IT'S SO POWERFUL THEY DIDN'T DARE INSIDE THE ATMOSPHERE.

IT'S THE KIND OF WEAPON A BODY'D USE TO PUNCH THROUGH PLANETS.

WHICH IS PRETTY MUCH JUST WHAT THEY INTEND TO DO TO MAGNETO'S ORBITING ROCK AND EVERYONE ABOARD.

UNLESS, MAYBE, YOU WERE TO GET THERE FIRST. AN' TAKE 'EM OFF.

YOU GUYS SAW THE SIMULATIONS. WE GOT CREAMED.

WE ARE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS, ICEMAN.

IT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR, KIDDO, WHY PROFESSOR X FOUNDED THE TEAM.

YOU KNOW, MAGNETO'S SURE TO BE WAITING FOR US.

THEN, FORGE, LET US NOT DISAPPOINT HIM.

WHATEVER THE RISK, MY FRIENDS, REGARDLESS OF THE ODDS...

BUT IF YOU'RE GONNA MOVE, IT'S GOTTA BE NOW AND IT'S GOTTA BE FAST.

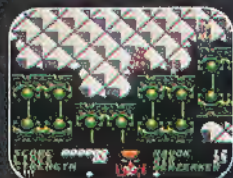
...WE MUST AT LEAST TRY!

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